MSU 4.1-539

Appl. No. 09/981,900

Amdt. dated November 3, 2004

Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17, 47-61, 63-79, 81, 82, 100, 102 and 103 are pending in the application. Claims 16, 62 and 80 were previously cancelled. Withdrawn Claims 18-46, 83-99, 101 and 104 have also been cancelled. No claims are allowed.

Independent Claims 1, 47 and 65 have been amended to be based upon the specific DNA sequences set forth in the specification as required in the last Office Action. Further, the claims have been limited to "herbaceous" plants.

None of the references even suggest combining the specific cellulase and ligninase genes in a single plant. The combination rejection is based upon hindsight using applicants' own disclosure as previously pointed out.

MSU 4.1-539 Appl. No. 09/981,900 Amdt. dated November 3, 2004 Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested. It is now believed that Claims 1-15, 17, 47-61, 63-79, 81, 82, 100, 102 and 103 are in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian C. McLeod

Registration No. 20,931

McLEOD & MOYNE, P.C. 2190 Commons Parkway Okemos, MI 48864 (517) 347-4100 Fax:(517) 347-4103